Standard of Health Care

1524. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the standard of health facilities available in the country are a third that of Thailand's which just meet the WHO minimum standard of health care for developing countries;

(b) whether India have just one doctor per 3000 people and the ratio has to be brought down to one for just at least 500 people;

(c) whether a two-day health summit was held on 25th and 26th February, 2002 in New Delhi in order to evolve a comprehensive plan on the health care sector; and

(d) if so, what are its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) According to the World Health Report, 2000 although India has been ranked below Thailand in terms of overall health systems performance, it would be erroneous to conclude that standard of health facilities available in the country are third of that existing in Thailand, as the various parameters used in the Report are amorphous and subjective. Also, the methodology used in assessing these parameters for the purpose of ranking countries is unscientific, non representative and inaccurate. In view of the above, the reliability of the findings is questionable.

(b) The doctor-population ratio at present works out to approximately 1:1800 in respect of allophathic doctors. However, including around 6 lakh qualified medical practitioners in other systems of medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy, the ratio comes down to 1:800. This ratio is sufficient to take care of health care services all over the country.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the two day health summit held C II in February, 2002. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has taken up a study with the overall objective of defining a roadmap for the health care sector in India, leading to its accelerated development.